United Nations S/2018/284

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 31 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The State of Israel and the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations are disappointed and deeply outraged by the events that took place at the Security Council last night. The Council was scheduled to convene at 6.30 p.m. on 30 March 2018 for closed consultations regarding the premeditated violent confrontations on Israel's security fence along the Gaza Strip. The State of Kuwait, with full knowledge that our Mission, Israel, and Jews everywhere were observing the first night of Passover, hijacked the consultations, forced an open session and invited the Palestinian delegation to present remarks that they had been advised to prepare well in advance. Israel was not given the same advance notice and was barred from taking part in the deliberations due to the observance of our religious holiday.

We informed the Council just days ago of Hamas' intent to foment violent confrontations. Once again, Hamas has exploited women and children as human shields, including by dressing young children in military uniforms and arming them with guns and ammunition. Despite the Palestinian leadership's insistence on the peaceful nature of these demonstrations, Hamas and its affiliated factions have interspersed armed terrorists amongst civilians, a number of whom were killed as a result of their direct attacks on Israeli positions. The Israel Defense Forces have also thwarted additional attempted terror attacks, including gunfire and other assaults.

Israel is taking great caution to protect the lives of civilians, operating in strict accordance with our rules of engagement, firing only when necessary and avoiding civilians Hamas has placed strategically in harm's way. We cannot, however, permit mass infiltration and breaches of our sovereignty.

In light of last night's events, I would like to remind the Council that exploiting procedural rules so that one side can make its case while the other cannot is antithetical to the spirit of the United Nations and is a direct affront to the fundamental principles of honest deliberation.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-05093 (E) 050418

Please recycle